> unfit to be at large. They must be placed under control, both for the protection and for the protection of the Public.

The writer could almost be diagnosing himself. He seems more interested in displaying his knowledge of the latest developments in psychiatry than in obtaining any understanding of the individual before him. The lore does not cast any light on Miss Coral's predicament, but helps to obscure and finally dismiss her. The letter is a curious mixture of text-book, rote definition and vulgar prejudice. Here new lore only seems to reinforce old prejudice.

Having been a nurse did make being a patient any easier. A nurse, who had worked professionally in one of the Asylums, was admitted to the Toronto Asylum from the Psychiatric Hospital on April 5, 1927. She wrote Dr. Crawford on April 8, 1927, to express the same sort of violent antipathy to the Asylum that doctors Clarke himself had exploited just a few years before. She offered to work both as patient and as nurse if only he would take her away from "this filthy prison, Queen St West," but she refused to work in any capacity so long as she was there.

Asylum life for her was merely a painfully slow kind of death: "murdered ... inch by inch just like a cat could kill a mouse." The Asylum offended her as nurse as well as patient, professionally as well as personally, and she refused to "lower myself to nurse here or work here, under any circumstances." The food was what her mother fed her cat or dog at home, and she felt the staff only wanted to disgrace and abuse her. In a slightly later letter to her father she wished that he would send her to "a general [hospital], not asylum & prison." For her the governmental status of the institution made it "licensed to be bad" or as she called it "Ontario Hospital Hell." She turns the officials' euphemisms against them; as a former employee herself, she probably knew them well.

(The Radio Hour)

In the late 1920s patient writing begins to reflect some of the technological innovations that might account for an apparent decline in volume. Telephones and radios were becoming common, and they changed people's habits and